

# Community News

## Station team holds hair razoring party

Close-knit group gets closer to support coworker with cancer

By Leslie Eaton

Hats are the latest rage in the International Space Station Program's Management and Control Team, but it has nothing to do with fashion—it's just a bit chilly without them.

That's because the entire team is walking around bald beneath the baseball caps that read: "Frank Ambrose's SMC Support Team."

Ambrose, a Boeing contractor leading the space station command and telemetry effort, was diagnosed with lung cancer and lymphoma four weeks ago. He had his first round of chemotherapy and is going through extensive radiation treatment to reduce the amount of discomfort from a tumor on his spine.

The chemotherapy left Ambrose with such sporadic tufts of hair on his head and beard that he decided to shave it all off. Kevin Window and Mark Wilson, the NASA and Boeing co-chairs for the SMC team, organized a March 13 party for members on the team to shave their heads in a show of support.

"We were hoping that four or five people would join us and it surprised Frank and us that everyone on the team joined in," Wilson said. "This was an opportunity to do something special and we wanted to do something visual to help."

All of the team members attended the party. Two wives who routinely cut their husband's hair "did the honors." The women on the team, who

stopped short of shaving their heads, also came to show support for Ambrose and cheer on the men who did.

All 19 of the men on the team shaved their hair off in support for Ambrose. There were even a few men from other teams who joined in, making the total sheared 23. Ambrose said he was "surprised and moved by the gesture," and added that he feels fortunate to work with the people on the team.

"What those guys did was very special," Ambrose said. "It's emotional for me to talk about it. It's been a tremendous source of support for me."

"We were trying to help him keep his positive attitude," Window explained. "He (Ambrose) came to the party and was the first to get shaved. It sure made me happy to be the lead of this team."

Window had the baseball caps made, and everyone on the team signed the hat that was given to Ambrose. Window says Ambrose wears the hat all the time now.

"Frank has taken a real active and aggressive attitude that the cancer is not going to beat him," Wilson said. "Frank takes his daily radiation treatments and then comes to work," Wilson continued. "We knew we were a close team, but this has solidified it."

Several team members say they plan to continue to shave their heads until Ambrose's hair grows back in to show their continued support.



More than 20 members of the International Space Station Program's Management and Control Team show support for team mate Frank Ambrose by having their heads shaved to look like his. Above: Twenty members of the Frank Ambrose Support Team participate in the hair cutting event at one of the team members' homes. Kneeling from left are Jimmy Williams, Steve Sheffield, Iain Ross, Kevin Window, Mike Surber and Mark Wilson. Standing from left are Tim Runkle, Mike Langan, Dick Carl, Joe Reed, Carlos Valrand, Nate Remmick, Frank Ambrose, Greg Clare, Greg King, George Torres, Scott Haase, David Majchrowicz, Chris Land, and Alex Land. Left: Cathy Haase, wife of team member Scott Haase, left, inspects the hair razoring work of Trish Surber while Quin Shepperd loses his locks to Jeanetta Wilson.

## JSC finalizes plans for next week's Earth Day celebration

By Sandra Parker

The Environmental Services Office is finalizing plans for JSC's Earth Day celebration from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. April 17 at the Gilruth Center. This year, employees will find activities and exhibits in both the gym and the ballroom. The JSC buses have added stops to the Gilruth on Route A between Bldgs. 44 and 32 and Route B between Bldgs. 45 and 419 and between Bldgs. 421 and 45.

Numerous activities and exhibits are scheduled for this year's event to support JSC's theme, "A Good Planet is Hard to Find." Activities include a presentation by the Child Care Program scheduled for 10:30 a.m. in the gym and a display of the first and second place winners of the

Clear Creek Independent School District Science Fair.

The photography contest and the children's original art work coloring contest also will be on display. Contractor and civil service employees are encouraged to submit Earth Day related photos by noon April 13 to Alexis Davis Bldg. 45, Rm. 708. Photographs will be judged by Sue Garman, associate center director; Harvey Hartman, director of Human Resources; James Hickmon, director of Center Operations; and Nick Nelms, photography supervisor from DynCorp.

The children's coloring page and the photography contest rules can be downloaded from the Earth Day homepage accessible through the

JSC internal homepage at: [http://stic.jsc.nasa.gov/collections/COD/earth\\_day/ED98index.htm](http://stic.jsc.nasa.gov/collections/COD/earth_day/ED98index.htm). Contest rules also can be found in the March issue of the Earth Day '98 Newsletter.

This year, an information booth with experts on topics such as recycling, growing and caring for roses, and horticulture, will be available to answer questions. Employees can make a pledge to conserve the Earth's natural resources at the conservation pledge booth and receive a free tote bag. Suggestions are listed on the pledge cards and include ideas such as starting a compost pile, recycling motor oil and filters at an approved recycling collection center, and using natural or organic

pesticides. Pledge cards can be downloaded from the Earth Day home page.

Door prizes and free give-aways also are being planned for this year. Astronauts will be on hand to autograph photographs. Employees who complete the scavenger hunt may come by the COD booth to receive a free badge holder. Visit the many exhibitor booths including Armand Bayou Nature Center, Wildlife Rehabilitation, the Native Plant Society, Texas Forest Service, Texas Department of Highways and Transportation, Texas Tortoise and Turtle Society, Army Corps of Engineers, the Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the EPA to name a few.

The Houston Federal Executive Board's Fun Run is scheduled for 9 a.m. April 18 at the Gilruth Center along with the JSC Earth Day Softball Tournament. For more details, see the Earth Day homepage.

Volunteers still are welcome to help with the many Earth Day events. Interested employees should contact Bob Gaffney at x34249.

Other area events include a Household Hazardous Materials Collection Day on Saturday, April 18 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Area residents may bring used motor oil and other hazardous materials to the University of Houston Clear Lake parking lot and know they will be disposed in an ecologically safe manner.

## JSC Safety Alert

### Handle Cigarettes Carefully!

#### What Happened

February 27, 1998, a JSC employee found a cigarette burning on the sidewalk between Buildings 1 and 2. The employee extinguished the cigarette. Close Call Report 98-1243

#### Results of the Investigation

Although nothing happened, a burning cigarette could be a fire hazard if it rolls off the sidewalk onto dry grass. At the present time, the fire danger is low due to all the rain; however, we do have dry spells in Houston. The fire danger could be higher in a few months.

#### What You Can Do

Each building should have ashtrays outside.

If you smoke:

Dispose of cigarette butts in ashtrays. Make sure the cigarette is out in the ash-tray before you leave it. The wind could blow it onto the ground.

## Black engineers name Barrios' Gordon top young engineer

James Gordon, an employee of Barrios Technology Inc., recently was selected as the Young Engineer of the Year by the National Society of Black Engineers.

Gordon said he knew he wanted to work in mission control when he was 11 years old and took a tour of NASA. "When I spoke about my dream with the tour guide, she informed me that I needed to become an engineer if I wanted to be in the space program, so that became my goal," Gordon said.

Gordon followed his dream through high school and Prairie View A&M University and now works as an engineer on the International Space Station for Barrios Technology.

"As I became more interested in engineering and because I finally realized my dream I think it was a very special circumstance to be able to realize a lifelong goal," he said.

Gordon believes that working in the community gives the Young Engineer of the Year an opportunity to give back what he has learned about engineering to the community. "I joined the National Society of Black Engineers in 1989 while I was

still in college. I like being a part of a program that gives volunteer opportunities—opportunities to learn through technical workshops and opportunities to be a part of community service," he said.

As pre-college initiative chairman, Gordon goes into Houston area schools and talks about what engineers really do as well as what it takes to become an engineer. He serves as a role model to other young students with big dreams. "I tell them, 'You can achieve your goals. My parents didn't go to college so just put your mind to it and you also can achieve your goals,'" he said.

Gordon said he was excited about the honor of being named Young Engineer of the Year because, "It's unusual for people to have dreams and actually get to accomplish those dreams. I know that it is sometimes easier to settle for less, but I wouldn't choose anything else," he said. "It's also exciting to be recognized by my peers and to be entrusted with the honor of being entrusted with the honor of being Young Engineer of the Year."